

## **\*\*IF YOU CHOOSE TO HAVE A ROOMMATE\*\***

If you find you need help paying for an apartment, one alternative is to find a roommate.

It's best to make a plan together before you move in together with someone.

### **Communicate \* Communicate \* Communicate**



It's best to talk before you move in with a roommate. Living together is a very personal thing. Values and habits can become real problems. Even a "best friend" can become an "enemy" if ground rules haven't been set before moving in together.

Payment of bills, agreement on rules of sharing space and equipment, and general values can become points of disagreement. Even everyday care of an apartment makes a difference when it's time to get a security deposit returned. To avoid problems with bill payment, it is important to decide:

- Whose names are on bills?
  - Whose name is on the lease or rental agreement?
  - What happens if a roommate must move out before the lease is up?
1. You might like to create a "roommate agreement" to include some of these things. What would you include in your agreement? (See sample provided in tool kit)
  2. Make a list of things that you think should be discussed before moving in together.
  3. Now you may want to try using a roommate compatibility chart. You might like to create your own list using the information you suggested in the list you made above. Make two copies. Have your potential roommate fill out one form. You fill out the other. Then talk about your answers together. (It's time to make compromises.) You can also use the compatibility chart provided on the next page.